



■ **Message from WGO-OMGE President**



As we come to the end of 2005 we can look back on an outstanding World Congress and also bask in the reflected glow of the award of the Nobel Prize to a clinical gastroenterologist and a gastrointestinal pathologist for a discovery which has so changed our speciality. Meanwhile, WGO-OMGE continues to grow in membership and extend its

activities; we look forward to further success in 2006 and will continue to strive to promote the highest standards in gastroenterology throughout the world. We hope that you too will join us in this endeavour. Wishing you every happiness and success in the New Year!

Eamonn Quigley
WGO-OMGE President

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■ **World Digestive Health Day**



May 29, 2006 is World Digestive Health Day and the focus will be on **Viral Hepatitis: A worldwide epidemic**. Approximately 600 million people worldwide have Hepatitis B or C which over the long term, accounts for a major, preventable, cause of death from cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.

World Digestive Health Day is an annual advocacy event hosted by WGO-OMGE to increase the awareness of digestive diseases amongst member societies, government bodies, media and the general public. WGO-OMGE will play an instrumental role in providing overall direction of the awareness campaign but the Day's success will depend on the combined results of the activities hosted by member societies and partners around the world. Join us to combat this global epidemic and help improve recognition and treatment of these diseases!

Watch the WGO-OMGE Website for more information on World Digestive Health Day 2006 in the New Year.

» [Download WGO-OMGE Hepatitis Guidelines](#)

» [Read more](#)

■ Opening of WGO-OMGE's 8th Training Center-Thailand

On March 20, 2006 the Siriraj Endoscopy Centers, WGO-OMGE/OMED's 8th Training Center, will be officially opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Sirinthorn and representatives from WGO-OMGE and OMED. The center is the largest and most advanced endoscopy clinic in all of Thailand . Continue reading for further information on WGO-OMGE/OMED Training Centers and courses.



Siriraj Hospital

» [Read more](#)

■ New Guideline Released-Endoscope Disinfection

The WGO-OMGE/OMED 'Endoscope Disinfection' Guideline is now available for download. Breaking new ground in guideline development and composed by a team of international experts, the guideline contains three key messages:

- Cleaning is the critical step in endoscope reprocessing
- Compliance with endoscope disinfection guidelines is the key factor determining endoscopy safety
- While local circumstances, training and resources may vary, high standards of disinfection must always be maintained

» [Endoscope Disinfection Guideline](#)

■ New Outreach Center-Burkina Faso

The Yalgado Ouedraogo University Medical Centre (Burkina Faso) serves over 1.5 million patients per year, but had no functioning gastroscopes, colonoscopes, nor ERCP equipment. Although there are trained gastroenterologists and nurses on staff, no procedures could be performed.

Together with Olympus Ltd, WGO-OMGE and OMED have joined forces to bring much needed equipment to this facility. Designated as the second WGO-OMGE/OMED Outreach Center, this endowment will immediately improve the health care of thousands of patients.



"You would not imagine how overjoyed the Director of our Hospital, the Minister of Health and I were at reading your message informing us that the Yalgado Ouédraogo University Medical Center has been selected as the site for donation of equipment and supplies. That was our New Year's present. I am most grateful for your allowing us, through your Programme, to acquire equipment we would never have been able to receive! Our population will benefit from this immensely."

Director of the YO Hep. Unit: *Prof. Alain Bougouma*

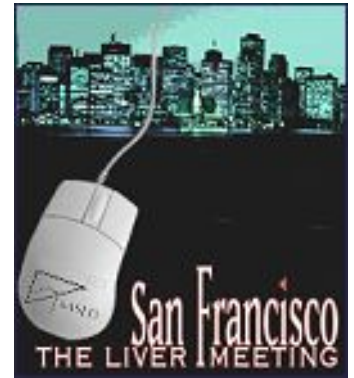
» [Read more](#)

■ Partner Organisations: AASLD Liver Meeting Online

The scientific program from the American Association for the Study of Live Disease (AASLD) Liver Meeting in San Francisco is now online. State-of-the-Art Lectures, the General Hepatology Update, Posters, Plenary and Parallel Sessions are available. In April 2006, the Hepatology Associates Course and the Postgraduate Course will also be available.

CME accredited, this program is also targeted to increase accessibility to health care professionals interested in liver disease around the world who were unable to attend the meeting.

» [Read more](#)



This e-newsletter promotes the activities of the WGO-OMGE.

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